

PROBLEMS AND CRISES OF DEVELOPMENT 443

leave their play occupation of the moment in order to obey the call of nature, partly because of their deficient sense of time and the fact that they live so much in the present moment, so that leaving their game feels like giving it up ; partly because of the fear that other children may come in and take their place or their playthings. The child's growing sense of confidence in all these different directions, as well as his growing skill and perception of time, gradually enable him to control the voiding impulse, until the appropriate moment. Mothers and nurses in the private nursery have yet much to learn from the trained and experienced nursery school teacher with regard to these positive methods of handling the training in cleanliness.

With regard to this whole question, practical wisdom can be summed up by saying that *it is a matter of technique rather than of morality.*

4. SCREAMING AND TANTRUMS

Sufficient has already been said about the psychology of the screaming fit to make it clear that no one who understands the meaning of such a situation to the child can agree to the hard modern doctrine that a young child should be left to scream until he falls asleep, and that then he will "learn better". Most upholders of this doctrine fail to distinguish between the inevitable wailing of the very small infant on the first hunger pangs, before he has adapted himself to the required rhythm of the feeding routine, and the screaming of the one- or two-year-old in the grip of deep emotional conflict and overwhelming anxieties. There is at present no reason to doubt that it is better, in the first few weeks, not to take the child up or nurse or dandle him at every cry that he gives, but to leave him to

adjust his
needs to the required routine of
satisfactions. Most children
brought up^ on these methods, without the old-
fashioned
nursing and rocking, do appear on the whole
to thrive.
But this is quite a different situation from that
of the child
of a year, eighteen months, or two years, who
suddenly
begins to wake in the night and cry for the
reassuring voice
or presence of the mother, and scream with
terror if he does
not get it; the child who begins to appear
unable to fall
asleep unless mother or nurse stays with him ;
or the child
who falls into a violent tantrum when mildly
thwarted in the